

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Supplemental to the amendments to the specification made in the May 31, 2007 Amendment, please replace the Summary of Invention section on page 2, line page 2 to page 3, line 13 with the following amended section:

-- The present invention has been made in consideration of the above situation, and has as its object to strengthen the security when a host computer connected to a network remotely controls information in an image processing apparatus.

To achieve the above object, according to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided an authentication method of an image processing system in which a host computer, an authentication apparatus and an image processing apparatus are connected to a network, the method comprising: a transmission step of, at the image processing apparatus, transmitting data for specifying the authentication apparatus to the host computer in a case where the host computer remotely operates the image processing apparatus; an authentication step of, at the host computer, causing the authentication apparatus specified by the data to perform an authentication process with respect to an operation level of the remote operation from the host computer to the image processing apparatus; and remote operation step of, at the host computer, remotely operating the image processing apparatus in accordance with the operation level authenticated by the authentication apparatus ~~an authentication result of the authentication process~~ in the authentication step.

Also, according to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided an image processing system in which a host computer, an authentication apparatus and an image

processing apparatus are connected to a network, comprising: a transmission unit configured to, at the image processing apparatus, transmit data for specifying the authentication apparatus to the host computer in a case where the host computer remotely operates the image processing apparatus; an authentication unit configured to, at the host computer, cause the authentication apparatus specified by the data to perform an authentication process with respect to an operation level of the remote operation from the host computer to the image processing apparatus; and a remote operation unit configured to, at the host computer, remotely operate the image process apparatus in accordance with the operation level authenticated ~~an authentication result of the authentication process~~ by the authentication ~~[[unit]]~~ process.

Other features and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters designate the same or similar parts throughout the figures thereof.--